



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,695	01/02/2004	Samuel N. Zellner	030391 (BLL-0125)	4104

36192 7590 10/30/2008

AT&T Legal Department
Attn: Patent Docketing
Room 2A-207
One AT&T Way
Bedminster, NJ 07921

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3692

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

10/30/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Amendment filed on July 25, 2008, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 1-12 and 15-23 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments/Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 and 15-23 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's arguments that Tannenbaum does not disclose *"approving a request to execute the financial transaction without interaction from the primary user and issuing a notification to the primary user when the request to execute the financial transaction is approved"*, examiner submits that Tannenbaum discloses *the communication can occur for certain of the purchases by category or by amount* (column 3, lines 60-65), and *"if there is not a message is to be sent to the user, or to a third party, and if no other special action is to be taken, then the system would proceed normally"* (column 7, lines 55-58), thus, the system of Tannenbaum approves a request to execute the financial transaction without interaction from the primary user when the purchases are not fall into the certain of the purchases by category or by amount. Moreover, Tannenbaum also discloses *the notification can be with the transaction or thereafter* (column 7, lines 34-35) and *"this information can be delivered before the completion of the transaction or afterward, and it could be contained on a receipt generated at the POS"* (column 8, lines 30-35), thus, the system of Tannenbaum

Art Unit: 3692

notifies the primary user *after the completion of the transaction*. Therefore, Tannenbaum does disclose “approving a request to execute the financial transaction without interaction from the primary user and issuing a notification to the primary user when the request to execute the financial transaction is approved.”

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent

Art Unit: 3692

granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-12 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tannenbaum, U.S. Patent No. 7,254,548.

Regarding to claim 1, Tannenbaum discloses a method for providing control over transactions, comprising:

prompting a primary user to input financial notification data, the financial notification data operable for defining transaction controls associated with a secondary user (*column 5, lines 25-30, the main user can edit the profile for any sub-account; column 6, line 7-column 7, line 43, the main user can log on to the system to edit the main user or sub-users profiles or establish new profiles; when third parties are to be notified, then the names of the third parties and mode of notification can be set*);

receiving and storing the financial notification data (*column 7, lines 37-40, the notification data is stored in database 16 and profile 17*);

receiving data relating to a financial transaction from a point of sale, the data associated with the secondary user (*column 4, lines 10-15, a parent could allow a child to have a credit card for the purpose of buying clothes, the child then selects is or her purchases at a location and runs card 11 through the card reader at the point of sale*);

retrieving financial notification data related to the financial transaction (*column 4, lines 10-15, the system, via profile 17, database 16, and processor 15, then recognizes that this is a card which is a sub-account card of a main account*);

sending a notification to the point of sale based upon the data relating to the financial transaction (*column 4, lines 15-25, processor 15 enables a communication to the third person identified by profiles 17 via the communication 18, the purchase can only be completed if the third person responds in a positive manner by pushing a button or speaking an acceptance word a set out in the user's profile, the processor 15 then controls the acceptance back to the point of sale*); and

the primary user and issuing a notification to the primary user when the request to execute the financial transaction is approved (*column 3, lines 60-65, the communication can occur for certain of the purchases by category or by amount; column 7, lines 55-58, "if there is not a message is to be sent to the user, or to a third party, and if no other special action is to be taken, then the system would proceed normally"; column 7, lines 34-35, the notification can be with the transaction or thereafter; and column 8, lines 30-35, "this information can be delivered before the completion of the transaction or afterward, and it could be contained on a receipt generated at the POS"*).

Regarding to claim 2, Tannenbaum further discloses wherein said financial notification data specify conditions for performing at least one of: denying a request to execute the financial transaction; confirming an identity of the secondary user before

Art Unit: 3692

approving said financial transaction; and suspending future financial transaction activities of the secondary user (*approving a request to execute the financial transaction, column 5, lines 5-17, confirming an identity of the secondary user before approving said financial transaction, comparing the live picture of the user with the picture in the database*).

Regarding to claim 3, Tannenbaum further discloses wherein the financial notification data comprise a spending type, the spending type including at least one of: a type of transaction; a listing of items or services associated with the transaction; a type of merchant; a time of day; a spending or usage limit; and a location type (*column 7, lines 7-20, a listing of items or services associated with the transaction*).

Regarding to claim 4, Tannenbaum further discloses:

presenting a user interface screen with a menu of transaction control items and transaction control rules, the control items organized into, and presented via the user interface as, categories (*figures 2 and 3A, column 5, lines 50-60, the system 20 in which user 200 is utilizing keyboard 22 and computer 23 to access his or her account via communication links 201-1 and 210-2 and public network 24 to web portal 25; the user can obtain account information any time on a category by category basis, or for establishing various account categories, balances and sub-users*);

wherein receiving the financial notification data from the primary user includes receiving one of a user-selected control item, category of control item, and user-defined

Art Unit: 3692

control item from the primary user via the user interface screen (*figures 5-7 and column 8, line 45-column 9, line 25*).

Regarding to claim 5, Tannenbaum further discloses wherein the notification to the point of sale and the primary user are presented via at least one of: a point of sale terminal; a transaction receipt; a computer screen; a telephone; postal mail; a messaging application; and an online service (*a point of sale terminal, column 4, lines 10-25*).

Regarding to claim 6, Tannenbaum further discloses wherein the notification to the point of sale comprises at least one of: an account balance; an account shut-off; a denial of a request to execute said financial transaction; a request for an additional authorization code; and a request to check an identification of said secondary user (*a request to check an identification of said secondary user, column 5, lines 5-17*).

Claims 7-12 are written in means that parallel the limitations found in claims 1-6 above, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

Claims 15-20 are written in computer storage medium that contains the same limitations found in claims 1-6 above, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3692

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tannenbaum, U.S. Patent No. 7,254,548.

Regarding to claims 21-23, Tannenbaum does not disclose wherein in the primary user is a merchant. However, Tannenbaum does disclose the third parties, such as parents, employers, debt counselors and **others**, could be notified (*column 3, line 60-column 4, line 10*). Moreover, notifying merchant regarding to a transaction is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tannenbaum's to include "merchant" in the third parties for notification regarding to the transaction, for the purpose of notifying the merchant in order to enhance the security when executing the transaction involving the sub-user account..

Conclusion

9. Claims **1-12 and 15-23** are rejected.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00AM-6:00PM.

Art Unit: 3692

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

11. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communication intended for entry),

or

(571) 273-6796 (for informal or draft communication, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

Application/Control Number: 10/750,695

Page 10

Art Unit: 3692

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nga B. Nguyen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3692

October 23, 2008